

Abstract

An arthroscopic suture thread and method for using same with a suture punch system. The system having a passageway, a hollow needle at a distal end of the passageway, and a feeder wheel proximate to a proximal end of the passageway. The suture thread of one embodiment made from a non-bioabsorbable material includes a coupled, sufficiently stiff and long leader portion for permitting the feeder wheel to facilitate advancement along the passageway and through the hollow needle. The suture thread of a second embodiment is a braided non-bioabsorbable thread coated with a sufficiently stiff bioabsorbable material.

01790/00001 256874.1